

LAMBDA

Laurentian University's Student Newspaper
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If Quizzes are
Quizzical... Then
What the Hell
Are Tests?

LU_LAMBDA@YAHOO.COM

**Who was the first person to look
at a cow and say, 'I think I'll
squeeze these dangly things here
and drink whatever comes out'?
Wocka, Wocka, Wocka...**



Playing With Our Fuzzy Parts Since 1961

Wayward Black Hole Staggers Through Galaxy, Passes Nearby

By Robert Roy Britt
www.Space.com

Conducting a bit of astronomical archaeology, researchers have dug up 43-year-old photographic evidence of an ancient black hole and used the information to learn that the object has been wandering at high speed on an odd, looping path through the Milky Way Galaxy for 7 billion years.

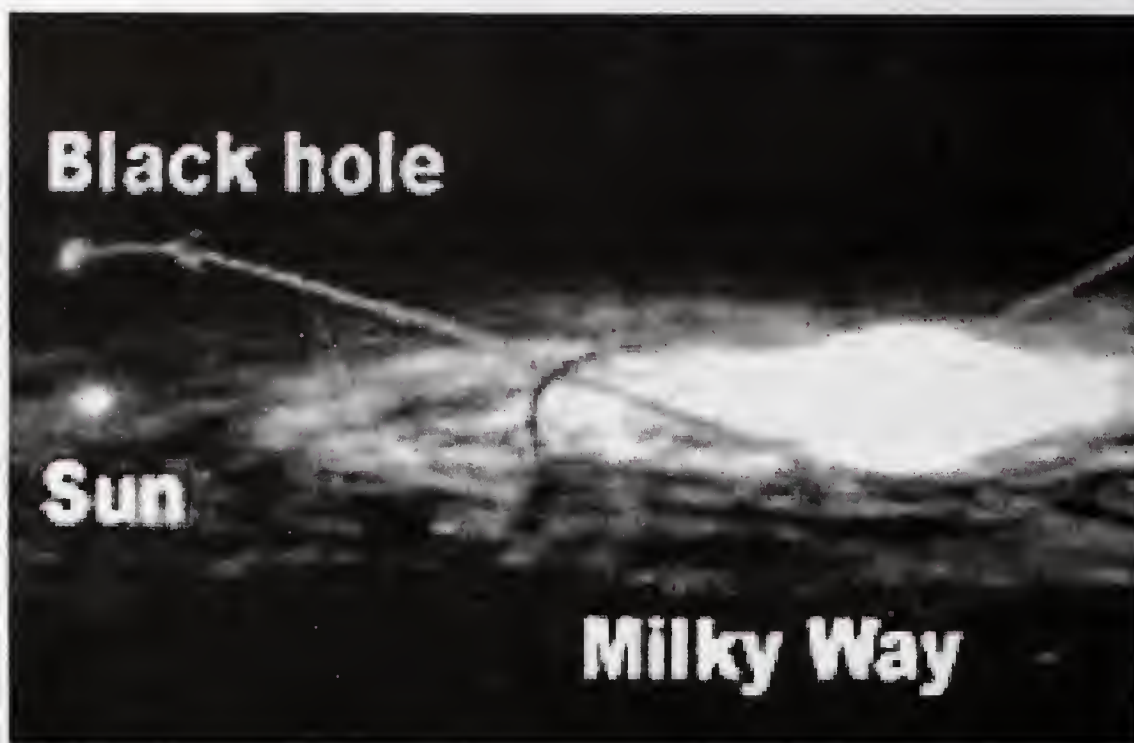
The study, discussed in the Sept. 13 issue of the journal *Nature*, represents the first measure of a black hole's movement through space, said researchers involved in the work.

The object's travels take it above and below the main plane of the galaxy, where the Sun and most other stars reside and orbit around the galactic center in relatively orderly fashion. The wayward black hole zooms along at 90 miles per second (145 kilometers per second) relative to the Earth, currently carving an arc up and over our solar system.

In pinning down the vagabond's trajectory and piecing together a picture of its past, researchers say they are adding pages to at least one chapter in the book that explains how the galaxy formed.

The object is estimated to have been around more than 2 billion years before our Sun was born, a time when the Milky Way was a toddler of a galaxy.

"We believe that hundreds



"I'll Take Astronomy for \$400 Alex."

"The answer is... What Are Three things a Laurentian Student Will Never See."

of thousands of very massive stars formed early in the history of our Galaxy, but this is the first black hole remnant of one of those huge primeval stars that we've found," said lead researcher Felix Mirabel, an astrophysicist at the Institute for Astronomy and Space Physics of Argentina and the French Atomic Energy Commission.

Retracing the route

In a telephone interview, Mirabel explained that long ago a massive star exploded, its remaining mass imploding and forming the black hole he and his colleagues studied.

In the intervening eons, the black hole, which has a travelling companion star to feed off of, has taken an ever-changing course through the galaxy. The path has now brought the object relatively near to our Sun. At just 6,000 light-years away, it is close enough to study.

Though this black hole and all its brethren can't actually be seen, researchers examine radiation generated by violent interactions near such objects, a surrounding sphere called the "event horizon" beyond which all things, including light, become irrevocably trapped.

Mirabel said the wandering black hole just discovered is at a safe distance, and its orbit won't affect our solar system.

The probability of any similar objects ever interacting with the solar system is very remote, he said, even though he expects there are hundreds of thousands of them winging through the galaxy at odd angles.

Four decades of data

Determining the black hole's orbit was the first step in figuring out where it came from and how old it is.

The object, officially called XTE J1118+480, was discovered by the Rossi X-ray satellite on March 29, 2000. Mirabel and his colleagues used the National Science Foundation's Very Long Baseline Array of radio telescopes to observe it in May and July of 2000.

But the key evidence was dug up from optical images taken 43 years apart for the Palomar Observatory Sky Survey. The researchers used the object's movement during those years to calculate the orbit.

Each 230 million years, the black hole and its companion complete one trip through the galaxy, the new research shows. But because the Milky Way's mass is distributed so widely — some in the center, some in the galactic plane, and some in a vast "halo" that surrounds the entire galaxy — the trajectory changes slightly with each orbit, Mirabel explained.

Booted out

The orbit indicates that some 7 billion years ago the black hole was ejected from what astronomers call a globular cluster. These dense groupings of stars — hundreds of thousands in each cluster — represent some of the oldest stars in the galaxy and are frequently found in the galaxy's halo, which is otherwise sparsely populated.

Some researchers speculate that globular clusters formed shortly after the Big Bang and might help explain the formation of the universe as a whole.

"The star that preceded this black hole probably formed in a globular cluster even before our galaxy's disk was formed," Mirabel said. "What we're doing here is the astronomical equivalent of archaeology, seeing traces of the intense burst of star formation that took place during an early stage of our galaxy's development."

The newly studied black hole's wild ride likely resulted from an ejection caused by the gravitational interaction with other massive objects in the globular cluster.

Mirabel and colleague Vivek Dhawan, an astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in New Mexico, say there are two other possible explanations for the black hole's strange orbit: It might have formed in the galactic plane and been gravitationally booted out; or it could have been introduced into the Milky Way when another, smaller galaxy

was absorbed in a merger.

"We think it's more likely that it was gravitationally ejected from the globular cluster," Dhawan said.

Packing for a picnic

For snacking purposes, the travelling black hole has taken along a companion star, an object that was once large but after billions of years has been reduced to roughly one-third the size of our Sun, partially eaten and with its innards exposed.

The researchers think the black hole gravitationally enlisted its travelling buddy just prior to being ejected from the globular cluster. Ever since, it has been siphoning matter from the star as the two objects orbit each other.

Theory holds that the matter disappears forever into the intense gravitational grip of the black hole.

This particular arrangement of a star and a black hole is referred to by astronomers as a microquasar because of the violent interaction at the surface of the black hole, where strong jets of radio waves and other emissions are shot out into space.

Some microquasars emit incredibly violent winds of energy when material from the companion star smacks into the black hole. Others stream energy into space in the form of jets that race out in two opposite directions.

Larger cousins

Microquasars, though relatively small, have been likened to full-blown quasars, huge objects only found in the distant universe and therefore very far back in time.

Quasars, or quasi-stellar radio sources, are far more massive and energetic. They are powered by supermassive black holes that snatch all nearby matter into a colossal well of no return that can hide a mass equal to billions of stars.

In yet another black-hole configuration, a similar but less active black hole with a mass of about 2.6 million Suns is thought to sit at the center of our galaxy. Astronomers recently provided some of the best evidence to date that this object exists.

Microquasars, on the other hand, are anchored by black holes that are typically called "stellar" black holes, with a mass equal to only a handful of stars.

About a dozen microquasars have been found, mostly in the plane of the Milky Way. Some, instead of involving a black hole, are powered by a neutron star. These objects were formed from stars not quite large enough to evolve into black holes, yet they are still said to be 10 trillion times denser than steel.

Also participating in the new study were Roberto Mignani of the European Southern Observatory, Irapuan Rodrigues of the Brazilian National Research Council at the French Atomic Energy Commission, and Fabrizia Guglielmetti of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

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Pair of Supermassive Black Holes Inhabit Same Galaxy, Destined to Collide

By Robert Roy Britt
www.Space.com

A pair of gargantuan black holes have been found to inhabit the same galaxy and will eventually merge with a violence that will slingshot stars out of the galaxy's center and unleash a torrent of radiation and gravitational energy.

The discovery is the first proof that one galaxy can contain two supermassive black holes, astronomers said today at a NASA press conference. The work also adds to other theoretical suggestions that black holes can in fact merge.

Researchers have known that the galaxy known as NGC 6240 has two bright spots, called nuclei, near its center, based on observations with radio, infrared and optical telescopes. Since the central region of the galaxy is shrouded in dust, however, it can't be observed in much detail.

To investigate the pair, scientists pointed the Chandra X-ray Observatory at it. X-rays penetrate dust.

"With Chandra, we hoped to determine which one, if either, of the nuclei was an active supermassive black hole," said Stefanie Komossa of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics. "Much to our surprise, we found that both were active black holes."

Active black holes are those that are actively consuming matter. Astronomers detect them because some of the incoming matter is not consumed, but rather is converted to energy in a frenetic environment of high-speed travel. The stuff is shot out as X-rays, other radiation and superheated matter called plasma.

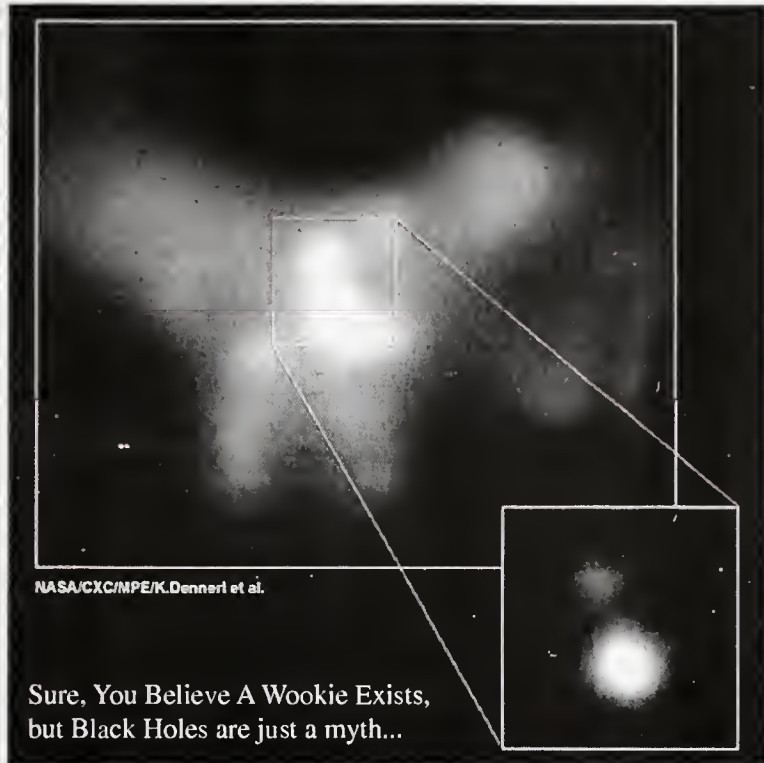
Our own Milky Way harbors a supermassive black hole weighing as much as 2.6 million Suns. It is not, however, very active. A study earlier this year suggested that black hole mergers could serve as an on-off switch for the input and output of a black hole.

The Collision

The galaxy Komossa and her colleagues examined is about 400 million light-years away, close by astronomical standards in a universe that spans more than 12 billion light years. The two black holes are about 3,000 light-years apart and closing. Each used to anchor a separate galaxy, but the two galaxies begin merging about 30 million years ago, astronomers estimate.

When galaxies merge, individual stars are typically not affected, theorists believe. But with two black holes colliding, things get a little more chaotic. *SPACE.com* asked Komossa what will happen.

For now, the two black holes do not feel each other's gravity



directly, Komossa explained. Stars are unaffected because they are so widely separated. But the overall centers of the two galaxies are interacting gravitationally.

As the black holes draw closer, some stars will begin to feel the effect.

"Individual stars which approach the binary black hole closely are accelerated and finally ejected from the center of the galaxy," she said. "The energy is extracted from the orbital energy of the black hole binary."

The mechanism is the same slingshot effect NASA uses to send spacecraft around a planet, robbing a tiny bit of the planet's energy to give the craft a speed boost and fling it a more distant planet.

Making Waves

When the black holes get as close as 1 light-year apart, they will begin to merge.

"They are now spiraling towards each other," Komossa said of that future event. "The final merging of the black holes, to form a single one of larger mass, will be accompanied by an enormous burst of gravitational waves."

These waves will spread through the universe, causing ripples in the fabric of space that astronomers would be able to detect as tiny changes in distance between two points.

"This is the first time that we see a binary black hole in action, the smoking gun for something which will become a major gravitational wave burst in the future," said Guenther Hasinger, another Max Planck researcher involved in the work.

Meanwhile, there's more to the merger. During the final stages,

more and more gas rains down on the two black holes.

Komossa: "The gas will heat itself up in the process, and start to emit huge amounts of radiation, strongly increasing the luminosity of the nucleus of the galaxy, outshining the whole galaxy in its brightness by a large factor. The strong radiation field will start to destroy the dust in the environment of the nucleus, giving an outside observer an even clearer view on the nucleus of the galaxy."

"The powerful radiation will also hinder part of the infalling matter to actually reach the black hole's horizon and disappear within the black hole; instead the material will be driven out again by strong radiation pressure, and huge outflows or jets may built up."

When all is said and done, few stars are likely to remain in the vicinity of the merged and more massive black hole.

One of many

Komossa said the new findings are indirect evidence that black holes must be in all states of merging around the universe. She points out that NGC 6240 is relatively nearby, making the new and finely detailed observations possible. Astronomers have seen evidence for active black holes many billions of light years distant.

"The fact that we do see a binary black hole in this galaxy strongly suggests that there are many more out there," she said.

Other studies have shown that several gravitational wave event occur every year. A planned space detector called LISA (Laser Interferometer Space Antenna) would search for them.

President's Award for Excellence Essay Competition

Once again, Laurentian University is offering its students the opportunity to demonstrate their strengths as writers by participating in the President's Award for Excellence Essay Competition. This year, students will be able to choose from one of the three following topics:

"Is there such a thing as a 'Canadian identity' or could we just as easily be part of the United States?"

"As a Laurentian student, what would you like Laurentian University to look like in five years time?"

"What are the arguments for and against the Kyoto Protocol?"

As in previous years, the President's Award for Excellence is comprised of two competitions, one for essays written in English and the other for essays written in French. The two first prizes are \$2,500, while both runner-up prizes are \$1,000. Laurentian University President Dr. Judith Woodsworth hopes that these timely topics will entice students to submit an essay.

To qualify, students must be Canadian citizens; be registered in an undergraduate program at the Sudbury campus of Laurentian University during the academic year 2002-2003; fill out an application form from the University's Office of the President, located in room L-1124 of the R.D. Parker Building; and write a high-calibre essay (maximum 4,500 words) to be submitted on or before 4 p.m., on February 28, 2003.

The President's Award for Excellence Essay Competition is made possible by the Sudbury District Boys' Home Charitable Trust, which was created when the Home, which was founded in 1967, ceased to operate in 1982. Its assets were converted into a charitable trust and distributed among a number of local institutions, including Laurentian University.

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Lambda Publications is the Weekly Student Newspaper of, by and for the students of Laurentian University. Lambda is partially funded through a direct student levy by the members of the Students' General Association, yet remains autonomous from all university organizations, both student and administrative.

EDITOR'S CORNER...

Lambda_Editor@Yahoo.com

A New Beginning...

By Mat Thompson
Editor In Chief

When the SGA first came to us with their complaints that Lambda wasn't being produced in a way that they thought was good for the students of Laurentian, I really got my guard up. I was sure this was some sort of a hostile takeover where I would have to fight to the death to keep Lambda the way it is. When you look at it, it seemed like a few people were really trying to make us look stupid and show us our faults, but hey, I have come here every week and written about all our problems so pointing out the obvious didn't really make a difference.

From the initial sideswipe that was given to us, it really opened a lot of people's eyes to the problems that Lambda has been facing for the last few years. People, including myself, are noticing things that need to be fixed and changed in order for this paper to go on past what is now known as Mat-da, or the Thompson era.

I took over this paper wanting to make a lot of changes and I did. I changed the way a lot of people viewed this paper and the way it is presented to the students. I made the paper more personal, and I brought writing to the paper. Sure, papers are full of writing, but Lambda is full of real writing. Lambda writing is a type where people can say what they really want to say. You don't have to



follow the set rules you would get in a school of journalism here in Lambda. I would rather people write what they feel instead of what they think they should be saying. Maybe that's where the problems began...

People see this paper as my paper. I even see the paper as my paper. I stayed here a few extra years to keep this paper going and it has turned into what I view as a great student newspaper, but not everyone sees it this way. People complain that there is too much entertainment and not enough information. I agree. People claim we centre on the things myself and my handful of writers enjoy and forget that there are other things we could be covering. I agree as well. People also claim that, once again, this paper is me and nothing else. You're damn right it is!

So where does the paper go from here? Well, in about six months it goes where it goes because I'm gone. This paper will not have the backbone that I give to it as a solid Editor that will sit in this office for over 24 hours straight making sure the paper comes out relatively on time. The writers are soul of this paper and in May, we all leave...

It's time for some changes around here and after a good meeting with the SGA president Andrew Noakow... Nowowo... screw it... Bubbles, there are a lot of things that we are going to work on to make sure this paper has a solid base after the year is over. We looked over the Constitution and Policy Manual and with the input of a committee of SGA members, there are some changes that need to be made. I thought we were fine at first, but there are some major things that can be done that won't affect the paper physically, but will help it out for years to come.

I have always gone but he

rule, if you don't have a vested interest in this paper (ie writing for us) then you really can't say much. I still think that way, but the SGA came up with some good ideas. Not all of them will be put into place right away, but I am going to work on changes over the next few months. The paper will still come out, and it will still have all the stuff you guys love to read, ignore or complain about, but behind the scenes I am trying to set this paper up to have a future.

It may sound a little self-indulgent to claim that this paper wouldn't be here if I was gone, but if you knew what it takes to run this paper sometimes, you would understand. I would love to be around forever, and it already feels like I have been, but I won't be. I hope someone comes along who has the same passion for this paper as I had in the beginning. I don't have the same passion anymore. I still love this paper and will do almost anything for it, but it's getting harder and harder to sit in front of these computers and do the same old thing, hoping for a new idea to make it fresh again. My editorials are changing. They're more cynical. I have a harder time having fun with them.

I wish I could go back to being the Entertainment Editor sometimes. I loved reviewing movies, music, plays and filling my pages with jokes, pick-up lines, comics and anything else I thought would make students remember that specific paper. I can't do that anymore. I even tried to sit down and draw a new Pub Guy comic this week and I just can't do it. It seems like I can't even contribute to my own paper without having to force myself to do it. It's sad because I am trying to get new writers to want to write, and trying to get older writers excited about their work when I have

this grey cloud over my own work that seems to dull my enthusiasm.

I want to be a writer. This is what I want to do for a living. I can't see myself doing anything else other than writing, but I already feel drained. I think the whole management aspect of things has taken my passion for writing away and I don't think I'll get it back until I leave here. The only time I seem happy writing is when I am writing for a website I write for on a weekly basis. All I have to do is write and everything else is left up to someone else. That would be so nice around here again...

Like it or not, this paper is going to go through a huge change. Everything is going to be shuffled around and some people may not like it, but they are going to have to deal with it. I, of course, could be a jerk and just leave everything the way it is. I could leave everything for the next person in charge, but that doesn't sit right with me. If I love the paper the way I claim I do, then I have to start the changes now.

I'm not sure where to start. A lot of good ideas have been brought to me and a lot of people seem to want to help. I guess I am finally coming out from behind the mask and telling... no asking everyone to come forward with their ideas. Something has to be done and maybe someone out there knows what it is. I wish I could go to my staff, since the people who write for us know more about the paper and the way it runs more than anyone else, but I have a very small staff who are already worked to death.

It's hard to begin changes when you have always been under the impression that nothing was wrong. Truthfully, nothing is wrong. It's just things could be better...

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The Editorial and General Meeting is open to all members of Laurentian University and the Sudbury community and is held in the Lambda Office, SCE 301

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Letters to the Editor must be no longer than 250 words.

Lambda reserves the right to edit for content considered sexist, racist, homophobic, heterosexist or for length and grammar.

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If you are emailing a submission to Lambda for possible publication, please ensure that the article is saved as a WORD or a TEXT file as we can only transfer these files. Please send all emailed submissions to the General Email address listed on this page.

Volume 41

Issue 7 / Numéro 7



Cover Design:
Does Anyone Actually
Read this Part?

We Are Not American!

by Jennifer West
Contributor

I have a teacher this past week who told me that Canada was a "melting pot". I disagreed, having been taught since I was in grade 5 that Canada was a "tossed salad" which to this day I believe and completely understand to be the truth. She disagreed, saying that we have no real defined culture, and are all immigrants.

Also, she claimed that the only real difference between the U.S and Canada was attitude, and it was the attitude that was getting the U.S places. I'm sorry but, it's that attitude that got the World Trade Centre attacked, it's that attitude which causes Americans to put Canadian flags on their backpacks when they travel in Europe, it's that attitude that cause so much friction between Russia and the U.S and causes Canada to be a buffer, it's that attitude that caused something like 50,000 or more Americans to be killed in the Vietnam War and around 3,000 to be killed in Pearl Harbour. It's that attitude that is slowly killing the American people and causing their children to kill each other.

It's this ignorance that causes American people to be made fun of

on the show "This Hour Had 22 Minutes". When they told George W. Bush that Prime Minister Joe Poutine said that he believe Bush was the best candidate for the job and he would 110% back him up, George the Monkey preceded to thank him, saying that he was always thankful for Canada/U.S relations. This is the same President who said that Mexico was the U.S top trading partner. But let's not get into their extremely stupid President George the Monkey.

I am not trying to say that Canada is the best country in the world; however, I am trying to say that we are more accepting of other cultures and more willing to think things through and try to come to a solution, instead of doing the first thing that comes to mind. We also are more educated in our culture. We want to learn and seek out others to find out how those cultures work. We probably have almost every single culture represented in our country. I'm not saying that racism doesn't happen and that we're angels, I'm saying that Generation Y is more tolerant and willing to learn about other culture than previous generations have been. We are more open to accepting them.

Despite the fact that my parents as well as their friends continually tell me that Canada will one day end up as another state of the U.S, if not a state we'll have the same money or government. I disagree. Many of my friends and I have had this discussion, or we talk about it in class. It will never happen, Generation Y is way too against the United States and their arrogant ignorance. We would never join them. World War 3 would break out first and guess who would be on our side? The rest of the world. I'm sure Russia would gladly nuke their ass for us. They have hated them for quite sometime.

The most despised thing about the States is the fact that they don't know anything about us. We live right beside them, they vacation here because it's cheaper, yet they know nothing. We only have 10 provinces and 3 territories, yet I don't think the States could name 3 provinces, never mind the biggest city in Canada. They know more about Mexico. It must be easier since they only have to remember one name.

In a Blaze Of Glory

by Hugh Panelas
Staff Writer

On Saturday, November 16/02 the Sudbury Fire Department was dispatched for probably the 3rd time that weekend. I'm sure that they expected what they usually come to UC for, a false alarm. This time was significantly different as there was actually a room on fire this time.

The fire deparment took their time getting out of their trucks and it wasn't until a member of Laurentian Security informed them that there really was a fire did they start moving fast. My problem isn't with the fire department but it does lie with the students that live in UC.

The story of how a double room on 8th floor went up in flames is as follows. This student had a lit candle sitting on his desk. Apparently he was lying in bed and covered himself with his blanket. Being a rather tall individual, the student's feet reached his desk. The blanket caught on fire and the student reacted by throwing the blanket on the floor in hopes to stomp the fire out. As he did this the bed frame caught on fire and subsequently his roommate's bed caught as well. How did the student react? He left the room to get some water to put it out. Upon his return he found that the room was engulfed in flames. As a result the fire alarm sounded and the fire department came to extinguish the fire. I must now point out the fact that this story is the version that is floating around UC.

Here's the problem. This student has violated the Resident Agreement in more than one area. Here are the sections that this activity violated the agreement:

SECTION III: Rules and Regulations
CANDLES: Candles and incense are not permitted in the residence complex as per fire codes outlined by the fire department.

RESIDENCE PROPERTY: Residents are responsible for all damage caused to residence property. In University College Residence you are responsible for:

a) your single room in its entirety (if applicable) or your side of a double room

SECTION IV: Residence Discipline
Residents may be evicted from residence where they have:

Caused room damage in excess of \$100.00

The contract that all residents sign in order to live in the complex clearly states where UC's policies stand when it comes to candles. Since it is the fire code that states that residents cannot have candles in their rooms I am pretty sure that the fire inspector wasn't too happy to find out the reason for the fire. Further more the contract also states that the individual is completely responsible for their room and any damages occurring to that room.

Recently some students, I am assuming that they are friends of this individual, have passed a petition around to each floor. The purpose of this was to get signatures to get Residence Office to overturn the 1-year ban that has accompanied the student's eviction. The basis for this appeal is that they understand that the individual broke the contract that we all sign but they feel that he is not a serious risk to our well being and that he should not be banned. This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. I really hope that the students that have signed this petition stopped to think of what they were saying by signing it. What you have all said is that you agree with the fact that the rules were broken and that that individual doesn't deserve to live in UC but then on the other hand you are saying he isn't a risk. It was because the student was a risk and

broke the rules that's why the student was evicted.

Am I missing something here. A student showed complete disregaurd for a rule that was put into place to prevent fires from happening. Candles aren't allowed because some people just aren't responsible enough to have them. The people that signed this petition feel that the individual isn't a risk? Hello? Is anyone else out there banging their heads against the wall? The well being of the students that reside in the complex was put in jeopardy when this student lit the room on fire and chose to get bowls of water rather than the fire extinguisher or the firehose that is located on every floor.

Don't get me wrong. What happened to this student's things is terrible and I wouldn't wish it on anyone. Honestly though, I have no time for people who partake in pure acts of stupidity and this situation clearly demonstrates just that. If you feel bad for him just because you think he is a nice guy you're just as bad as he is. Think of his roommate and what he is going through right now. How does a new student deal with the fact that after just two and a half months into his first year his roommate, a third year student, someone that is supposed to set an example for the younger students, set the room on fire and damaged almost all of their things.

I commend Residence Office, the RA's and Porters that did not sign this petition. I'm glad to see that the people highered and placed into positions that require them to look after the safety and the well being of the people that live in UC aren't blind just because they might be friends with this individual. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that we aren't in any danger.

Monday, November 25, 2002 / lundi le 25 novembre, 2002

A SPACE FOR RANT...

Letters to the Editor

Dear Lambda,

My name is Perry Cannon and I am a student at Laurentian University. The weekend of November 9th was a very important and busy one for Laurentian University. There were many conferences and events happening on campus including the Sociology for Changing the World Conference, of which I was a participant and the events associated with Native Awareness Week These events were not only an opportunity for those of us who are not familiar with the cultural practices of the Native community to learn about and observe some of these practices, they were also an opportunity for the Native community to be proud of and to partake in their cultural practices. This is a great experience for everyone in the community. However, while I was partaking in some of the events around this important experience I observed a couple of problems. First, I observed a large number of security personnel in the area where much of the Native events were taking place. I have been a student here for some time and in my experience I have never seen the same number of security at this institution on weekends. My initial assumption was that the reason for these tight security measures was the large number of people that were visiting for the various conferences and events. Imagine my surprise when I noticed that the same amount of security was not present at the other events that were taking place. I feel that this overemphasis on security around the Native events was a commentary on the racist attitudes about the Native community at this university and in this community.

The second problem that I observed was a comment by one security officer. While in a meeting with a number of my colleagues in the third floor of the Arts building we were interrupted by a security officer who said "If you see any "little pow-wows" walking around "ship them off". She was referring to Native children that were part of the events taking place. When one of my colleagues informed her that the children were not bothering us she reiterated herself more forcefully to "ship them off", then she told us that they cause "damage". Some of the people involved in this meeting were from York University and they could not believe what they were hearing. Furthermore, over the rest of the weekend we did not observe any damage to the university in any way. This comment further emphasizes the racism that still persists in this community. I believe that this comment was not only a reflection of this particular security officer's beliefs, but also a reflection of the racism towards the Native population, and other oppressed communities by this university and society more generally. The language and attitude that we observed were unacceptable.

I feel that these two observations were unwarranted and a poor representation of this institution. I was not the only person concerned with these problems. Many others involved with the Sociology Conference were also concerned, including the Chairperson of the conference organizing committee, Dr. Gary Kinsman. The way that certain people were treated that weekend was unacceptable especially in light of the other conferences that took place that weekend. The Sociology conference emphasized doing sociology for oppressed people in order to try to change the way their lives are organized that leads to this oppression. I encourage people to think about the problems that I observed and what it says about the way our society is organized that would facilitate such an unequal treatment of the Native community and other oppressed people.

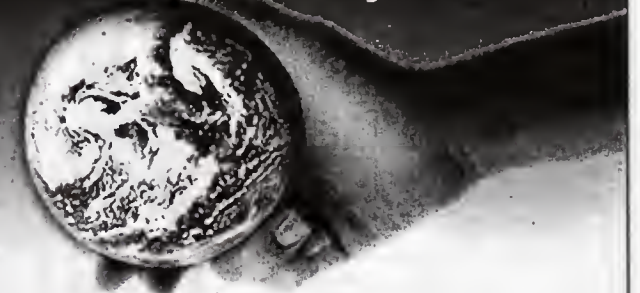
Perry Cannon

Graduate Student in Applied Social Research

Editor's Note: Most people wouldn't touch this letter with a ten foot pole, but I feel I should comment. The comments made by security, if said, were uncalled for, but you weren't everywhere to see everything that happened. Security was called on a few incidences that I know of where kids were throwing rocks are doors and windows, banging on office doors (including ours) and causing a disturbance. Not all of them were doing this, but there was a group this year, and years past, who are unsupervised and do cause problems and damage. That's what security is there to prevent.. but they should keep their comments to themselves.

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Brain Appears to Have 'Daydreaming' Mode

By Alison McCook
www.YahooNews.com

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Much as a car's engine hums along even when it's parked in neutral, the brain seems to contain a "default mode" in which certain regions become more active at rest, US researchers report.

"During rest, these regions appear to be interacting, because they change at similar rates," lead author Dr. Michael D. Greicius of Stanford University in California told Reuters Health.

Intriguingly, the behavior of these brain regions bears a certain resemblance to what one would expect from brain areas that make up human consciousness, Greicius added.

The default mode network supported in the current study generally increases its activity when the brain is at rest, then drops in activity once people are called to a certain task. In a similar way, Greicius said, a person could be daydreaming or following a stream of consciousness, but those activities would be zapped away as soon as the person was called to action, perhaps by a ringing telephone.

In addition, some of the brain regions that may form parts of the so-called default mode network have shown in previous studies to be involved in certain aspects of consciousness, Greicius added. For instance, one of the brain regions looked at in the current study, the posterior cingulate cortex (PCC), has been shown to play a role in the brain processes by which people recall memories. In addition, PCC activity tends to peter out as people lose consciousness when sedated.

Given that PCC forms a part of the theoretical default mode network, Greicius and his colleagues suggest that this network may serve similar functions, such as involving itself in remembering past events, mulling over information, and thinking about the future.



Greicius cautioned in an interview, however, that the results of the current study do not demonstrate that the default mode does, in fact, represent the brain network involved in consciousness, nor is it involved in any specific activity related to consciousness.

"All of this stuff is supportive, but none of it is definitive," he said.

During the study, Greicius and his colleagues measured brain activity in a handful of people during different activities: performing a mental task, passively watching a pattern on a screen, or resting with their eyes closed. They report their findings in the online Early Edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The authors found that PCC and at least one other brain region known as the ventral anterior cingulate cortex seem to show similar rates of increase and decrease in activity in response to what people are doing.

Greicius noted that the default mode regions continued to show high activity while people passively watched the screen pattern—a finding that makes sense, he said, for just because you are looking at something, doesn't mean you can't daydream.

The current findings also demonstrate that the brain may need to be active even when the mind is at rest, he added. "When the car is running, the engine is still purring," Greicius said.

SOURCE: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 2002;10.1073/pnas.0135058100.

Mountain Biking Linked to Infertility

By LINDSEY TANNER
www.YahooNews.com

CHICAGO (AP) - Frequent mountain-biking may reduce fertility in men, according to a small Austrian study that adds fodder to a debate over cycling and male sexual function.

The research suggests frequent jolts and vibration caused by biking over rough terrain may cause abnormalities, including small scars within the scrotum and impaired sperm production.

The abnormalities were found in professional mountain bikers and other "extreme" bikers who logged at least 3,000 miles yearly—or an average of more than two hours a day, six days a week.

Dr. Ferdinand Frauscher, a urology-radiology specialist at University Hospital in Innsbruck, Austria, said he studied about 55 avid mountain bikers and found nearly 90 percent had low sperm counts and scrotal abnormalities.

Only 26 percent of the 35 non-bikers he studied had similar damage, according to research presented at this week's annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America.

Whether the abnormalities were severe enough to make fathering a child difficult is uncertain,

though some of the bikers studied had already experienced difficulty conceiving, Frauscher said. Participants were aged 17 to 44.

His study looked at fertility rather than impotence, which was linked to recreational cycling in research heavily publicized in 1997. The earlier findings, by Boston University impotence specialist Dr. Irwin Goldstein, were construed by many cycling aficionados to suggest that men should avoid any cycling sports.

Some doctors thought Goldstein's findings were overstated, but the issue has prompted a mini-industry of bicycle seats designed to avoid the compression of penile arteries that Goldstein said occurs during cycling.

Such problems may occur on narrow, racing-type seats, Frauscher said. Some newer, wider designs feature holes or gaps to avoid pressure, but these likely would have no effect on the scrotal damage found in the Austrian study, which may be caused by jolting over rough terrain rather than artery compression, Frauscher said.

Frauscher said men shouldn't avoid mountain biking because of the study, but should perhaps consider investing in bikes

with shock absorbers or suspension systems designed to reduce the jolting.

Stanford University urologist Dr. Robert Kessler said he was skeptical of Frauscher's findings. Scrotal varicose veins, which were among the abnormalities Frauscher linked to mountain biking, are usually congenital and not linked to trauma, Kessler said. "It doesn't make sense," Kessler said.

Dr. Eduardo Randrup, a urologist at Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, said the link is plausible but not necessarily cause for alarm. The damage Frauscher found "may well be reversible" and likely would not occur from recreational cycling, Randrup said.

Dr. Sangili Chandran, a sports medicine specialist at Christ Hospital and Medical Center in the Chicago suburb of Oak Lawn, said other studies have found similar results but, like Frauscher's, have been too small to be conclusive.

"The theory is there; the proof I'm still looking for," Chandran said. Even if the results are corroborated in future studies, very few mountain biking enthusiasts are logging enough miles to worry about any fertility impairment, Chandran said.

Echinacea Capsules May Not Fight Colds

Reuters Health
www.YahooNews.com

People looking to shorten a bout with the common cold or reduce their symptoms by popping capsules of echinacea may not find relief, new study findings suggest.

Echinacea, derived from the purple coneflower, is an herb sold over the counter as an immune-system strengthener and cold remedy.

Despite a few studies that found the herb made a difference for cold sufferers, "there is no clear consensus about whether echinacea can benefit human health," lead author Dr. Bruce P. Barrett and colleagues write in the December 17th issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine.

To investigate, Barrett and a team of researchers at the University of Wisconsin in Madison compared the effects of echinacea in capsule form with a placebo pill in college students who believed they were coming down with a cold.

To participate in the study, the students had to report at least 2 of 15 listed cold symptoms.

Participants were excluded if they reported having any of the symptoms for more than 36 hours or if they were taking antibiotics, antihistamines or decongestants.

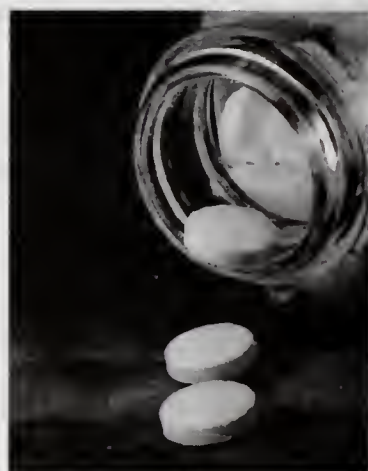
The investigators did not detect a difference in cold duration between the echinacea and placebo groups, nor did they find any difference between the two groups in symptom severity, according to the report.

Colds lasted an average of 6 days for people in both groups, the report indicates.

Nonetheless, the authors note that echinacea is sold in a variety of forms and that just because the form of echinacea they tested had no health benefit doesn't necessarily mean that other forms will not help cold sufferers.

"Because (plant) chemical constituents vary among botanical species, growing conditions, plant part and extraction method, it is possible that one preparation would provide benefit while another would not," Barrett and colleagues write.

Barrett's team is calling for



more research on echinacea's cold-fighting potential.

The echinacea capsules used in the current study contained a combination of whole unrefined plant material, including roots from Echinacea angustifolia and herb and root from Echinacea purpurea. The students took four tablets six times for the first day and four tablets three times a day until cold symptoms resolved or for 10 days.

SOURCE: Annals of Internal Medicine 2002;137:939-946

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Open Mic Night Returns Downunder

by Hugh Panelas
A&E Editor

On a cold December night the Pub Downunder opened its doors for something that drove the people away last year. Who can forget that ugly open mic night from last year? That night was a night where all the so-called talent of Laurentian University boycotted the event due to issues such as "bad sound" and "poor organization". The SGA and the Pub Downunder decided to bring back the once stale event and to everyone's surprise it did quite well.

Now let me make one thing clear. I am by no means a musical genius and will not pretend to be. I for one commend all of the participants that got up on stage and had the courage to put it all on the line as they took the stage in front of a group full of their peers. Hats off to them, but if you want to make it in the music industry you have to be

willing to take criticism whether it is good or bad. And hey, this is Lambda so you should know what to expect. Besides, I am the most damn opinionated person out there, with the exception of Mr. Thompson so here we go.

The night began with something an open mic night wasn't used to, someone that knew what they were doing. Gone are the days where the Guitar Clinic would clumsily set up and sound system and head to the bar to drink. This time things were different as there was a host to control the melee. Bill introduced the night at 9:45pm and took the stage to perform the opening act with one of his long time friends and band mates. They opened with an acoustic riff which set the standards for the night. After a Dave Matthews Band and Pink Floyd cover they turned the stage over to a duo

that has graced the Pub stage before.

Ryan and Zach along with some SSR friends took the stage and began a DMB set that would have most fans shaking their heads. Their guitar playing was enough to make anyone stop in amazement as they plucked away almost in perfect rhythm hitting all of the correct cords. Unfortunately the same cannot be said about their drummer as the beat seemed to be 2 steps behind and it really did hurt the overall performance. At the end of the set one person commented to me that "I was impressed overall by the guitar playing and vocals but it sounded like the drummer was dropping the sticks."

Next Peter Hardcastle and his crew (made up of SSR and U of S) took the stage. Right away something was different that made them stand out from the rest. They had a drummer that could lead the rest of the group. Kelly took her place above all the rest as she commanded control of the group's sound. What was really fantastic was that this group tried out an original. As RJ Wieczor described it "I really liked that original. It was a combination of Oasis and Coldplay." They rapped up their set with a rendition of Karma Police that brought the house down. The crowd ate it up and showed their appreciation by screaming loudly.

After that tough act to follow seasoned vets Bubbles, Preetam and Jason Satur took the stage with Kelly backing them up as well. It was nice to see that an SGA president would actually support an event that they are having by diving in feet first. Unfortunately for these three some past ghosts of open mic night made their return as there was some nasty feedback and low sound levels. After the first song this problem was taken

care of and the trio lead the Pub into loud levels as their finale "So this is Christmas" echoed through the bar.

We all didn't know what to think next when a group known as the Smokin' Mojo Filters took the stage. This group was acoustic based and the changes in tempo lead to bad things. Most of the people in the Pub took the opportunity to talk and drink over the music. The noise pretty much all but drowned out the sound coming from the stage. What really got the crowd back to them was the harmonica work in one of their songs. The crowd quickly rallied behind them and after their cover of DMB, a cover that made the others juvenile, they got off the stage clearly being the best act of the night.

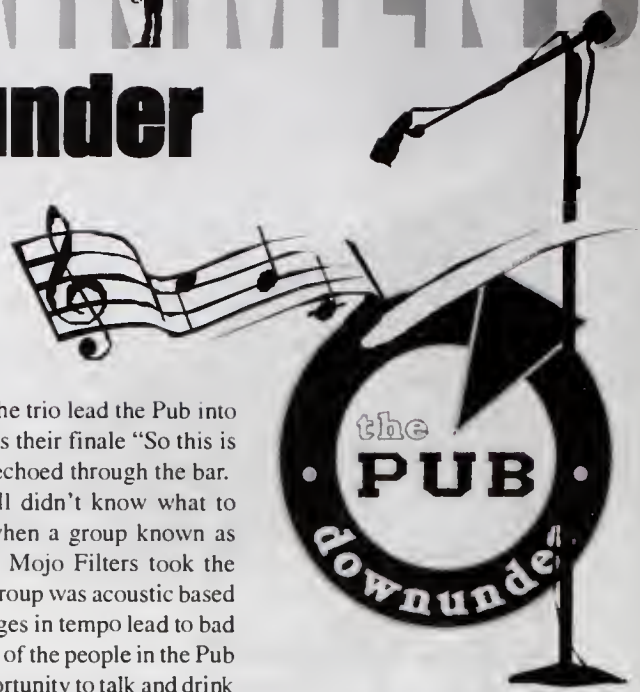
Next up was a lone performer who took the form of Jeff, or as UC knows him, Prince. No one knew quite what to expect as the face-pierced under-ager took to the stage. What happened was the best damn guitar work of the night. He led the Pub in a sing-along with his punk covers done acoustic style. While you could tell that he isn't the lead vocalist in his band back home the crowd didn't care at all. Besides, he wasn't bad at all. The crowd really got behind him and supported his solo effort throughout the set. This was quite easily the most impressive moment of Open Mic Night history as he is the first person ever to go solo. What really impressed me was his string work on Metallica's Nothing Else Matters.

The rest of the night was filled in by past regulars jamming to complete the night. The last 30

minutes was definitely highlighted by three things and I am sure that everyone will agree. The first was the large group jamming to Neil Young's rocking in a free world. What added stage presence to this act was the fact that Bubbles (I'm sorry, I can never call him Andrew) was sitting down in his chair Young style and hitting every cord on cue. The place was rocking after this one.

Ryan Rice took the stage once again and thrilled the bar with an almost exact rendition of the Tragically Hip's Wheat Kings. I must admit that I really am not the biggest hip fan in the world but he did a damn good job and judging by the Hip fans' reaction he nailed it right on. Clearly this performance was one of the best ones of the night. Lastly the Pub left a stamp on the night as bouncer RJ Wieczor ended the night with a solo performance of his own.

Overall the night was a great success. Hopefully the SGA and the Pub will keep it in mind when they are scheduling events for next semester. Who knows, if this night wasn't right before exams we could have had a lot more performers. Next time I'm sure they'll be lining up.



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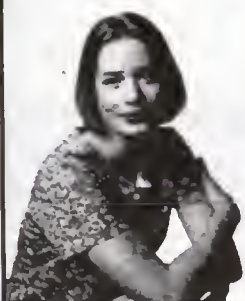
As of January 1st, 2003 the Pub Downunder's Under-Age policy will NOT be in effect.

You must be 19 years of age or over to enter The Pub after this date.

Friday nights will now be designated All-Ages.

Please contact The Pub downunder or the SGA if you have any questions pertaining to this change in policy!

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Arts & Entertainment

Entertainment Squirts

Hugh Panelas
A&E Editor

Well I guess a good place to start is to comment on this whole Michael Jackson and his new baby situation that seems to have the world on fire. For those of you that have been living under a rock the past few weeks Michael Jackson recently made the news while in Berlin, Germany. He allowed the fans surrounding his hotel to catch a glimpse of his new baby Prince Michael II. It wasn't just a regular sighting though as Jackson decided to dangle the toddler over the edge of the balcony of the hotel room. Claiming that he "just got caught up in the excitement" Jackson insisted that he would never endanger the welfare of his children.

Was it a bad thing? Of course it was. No one should ever have done this to a child. What bothers me is that the Berlin police have decided not to prosecute Jackson and if you turn on the news lately you'll see that there is a team of lawyers that are looking to charge the King of Pop on USA soil. How does that work? I'm not sure but I guess the USA feels they can extend their laws everywhere they want to.

Stone Cold Steve Austin finally had his day in court. Steve Williams was in San Antonio this past week to face the misdemeanor count of assault with bodily injury that he was charged with after roughing up his wife Debra Williams back in June. Both WWE personalities you can imagine the bad publicity this means for the WWE. Williams pleaded no contest is hopes of getting the charges reduced but the attempt was a futile one as the judge would not take that direction.



Look, My Thumb is Finally all White!!!

Williams was sentenced to one year's probation, fined \$1000, domestic-violence counseling and 80 hours of community service. Not too bad for a first offense, can you imagine if he had have hit her with the Stone Cold Stunner?

Ok, now to change directions completely. Have you all heard the new Ja Rule single called Thug Lovin'? No, well guess who this track features. Give up? Bobby Brown. I guess Bobby decided to ditch the BBD posse in order to get with a real crew. It's a pretty damn cool track and since I am not afraid to admit that I am a Bobby fan I honestly hope that this gets his career back on the right track. Then again, any track would be good for Bobby right now.

I know that football is considered more a sport than entertainment but people watch it and

are entertained therefore I can write about it. What is all the big fuss about Warren Sapp lately? I know that you all have seen the hit on that Green Bay Packers lazy son of awell you get the picture. Sapp did something that you are taught as a football player since day one. Hit and hit hard until you hear the whistle. Sure it was a classic ear-hole hit, they guy went down and got hurt. End of story. Another thing that they teach you as a kid is that never go half speed in a game and always pay attention. That's what happened here. A player got caught putting in a lackadaisical effort and got nailed. Why the hell would anyone go half-assed in the NFL? I have no idea. The injury was unfortunate but as far as I am concerned he got what he deserved. If your head is down then you need to be knocked into next week.

Monday, November 25, 2002 / lundi le 25 novembre, 2002

Sex Talk

Whip It Good!

by Lianne Richards
Sex Columnist

Bondage, whips, chains, cuffs, domination...all are elements of S&M, otherwise known as sado-masochism. I thought it only appropriate to highlight this sexual sub-culture in Lambda, where average writers can disguise themselves, and thus, assume an identity unlike their own. This is potentially what S&M is all about. Quiet, delicate people can become domineering, sadistic sexual creatures, while aggressive, overpowering people can become sniveling lapdogs. I guess I should get to the basics...

What is S&M?

Sadist are aroused by inflicting pain. That pain can be inflicted playfully, or cruelly. A fine line divides the two, but unless your partner is a masochist, they are unlikely to reciprocate the arousal. Masochism is the opposite of sadism, in that the masochist is aroused by the infliction of pain. Typically, that pain translates into stronger sensations, thus increase desire. Sado-masochists are a combination of the two, taken to the extreme of needing pain to create feelings of arousal.

Where does domination fit?

Well, domination is assumed to be the job of the sadist. In truth, domination and submission is different than S&M. It is said that S&M does not assume a prior experience of love, whereas domination is thought to be an act of love, or at the least, compassion. Where true sadists won't necessarily stop when the pain becomes too much, domination is more of a power issue than a pain issue. The submissive usually trusts the dominator, and thus gives up control, whereas the dominator maintains the control by maintain the trust and staying within unstated boundaries. Another important aspect of domination that does not always extend to S&M is power exchange. The exchange of roles allows for deep seeded trust between participants in and out of the bedroom. Domination is more about achieving control with respect, desire and subtlety than it is about posturing and coercion.

What needs to be emphasized is that S&M and domination-submission does not in any was encourage rape. The main role of the submissive, or masochist, is to be willing, or at the very least, non-combative. Taking sadism and domination to the point of violation of the body and mind, shifts relatively innocent, mutually agreed-upon erotic play to a form of snuff, illegal, immoral, and just plain sick. For this reason, S&M gets a bad rep. The way I see it, it's just an alternative to the usual bedroom routine. But it's not for everyone. Sometimes a little tenderness will get you a lot more than a spanking.

FIVE MINUTE STORY

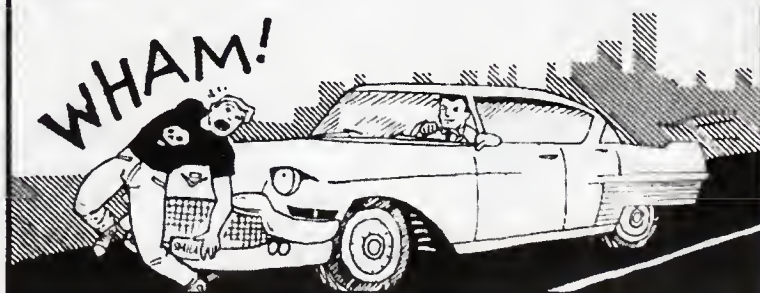
AGREE TO DISAGREE

by Mike Gillison
Contributor

I've worked far too long. Long enough for my knees to ache. Aches are bad. The dull irritating feeling only becomes worse with thought and we are all born to think. Some people think quite often, others not too much. You have to watch out for both; they have their own quirks. Everybody has some sort of quirk. My friend leaves the cupboard doors open, me, I close them. You see, to me, the open doors are a hassle but to my friend the closed doors are a hassle. The littlest things can be the biggest hassles and vice-versa. People cutting you off on the highway = big hassle, the big highway = little hassle. Everything works with an opposite you know, if not you will find out one day. I promise. It will be on that day that you discover all the time you've spent trying to find things that don't have an opposite quite the hassle. Now my friends, you realize you have worked far too long and your knees are beginning to ache.

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Arts & Entertainment

Mat Burn - I Was a Fan...



by Mat Thompson
Editor In Chief

It's funny when people trash the WWE nowadays. They claim it has lost its edge. They claim that it has lost the appeal that it had only one year ago. They love to compare the current state of the WWE to not only the past WWF eras, but they mainly claim that the WWE is turning into WCW. So many people see this as an insult to the WWE, like a low blow to the writers of the WWE, but I see it very differently. Why you may ask? Because, I was a WCW fan!!!

Many of you are gasping thinking I have gone insane, but that shows me that you never really watched WCW. Here in Canada, at the peak of the WWF vs. WCW wars, we would get RAW on Monday nights either at 9pm or midnight, then it would be replayed at 4pm on Tuesday. Then on Wednesdays at 3pm we would get Nitro, then it would be replayed at midnight or 2am, wherever TSN could fit the show into their schedule. We never had to choose between the two shows. We never had to jump back and forth between stations trying to figure out who was the biggest jobber, Middeon or Disco. We never had to decide between the New World Order and Degeneration-X, and we never had to be WWF or WCW fans, we were just fans of wrestling.

I used to look forward to my weekly WCW fix on Wednesday afternoons. I used to skip class on many occasions just so I could see what was going to happen next. It started back in 1997 when I started taping certain WCW matches for my friend who had moved to England. At that time, WCW was about 4-6 months behind on television and the WWF was at least one month back. She was in love with Kevin Nash and I was hooked on the whole Raven's Flock saga, so my tapes began to roll. At first I was only really taping the matches that had Nash in them, but then things started to happen. What I always thought was a second rate show compared to the WWF was actually getting good. Now I'm not talking about the beginning of the New World Order, but this was around the time of the nWo split where we had the Red and Black Attack and the Black and White J.O.B. Squad. Scott Steiner had just turned in to Big Poppa Pump. Bret

Hart had jumped to what should have been a legendary run in the WCW and two smaller stars had begun a battle over the WCW Television title and their Best of Seven Series has gone down in history as one of the best feuds in wrestling.

Now, I was a fan of WCW before that. I used to watch WCW Saturday afternoon when I was in highschool. I loved the ring that turned slowly in the centre of the television studio where it was taped at Universal Studios. It was a little cheesy, but it had its moments.

Everyone claims that WCW sucks. I never saw it that way. If that federation sucked so bad, why did so many big names stay there for most of, if not all of their careers? Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Lex Luger, Sid, Scott Steiner, Dusty Rhodes and more began in NWA/WCW territory, jumped to the WWF, then went back. Was it because they couldn't hack it in the WWF? Not at all. WCW had a great history and a great run and these legends preferred to be there. Even a few names never made the jump, no matter how big they got.

Would you go up to Steve Borden and tell him that WCW sucked? Maybe if you didn't recognize him, but as Sting he was 'The Franchise' who was the epitome of the WCW wrestler. Sting had talent. Sting had in ring and mic skills. Sting had everything that would have made him one of the biggest names in wrestling history if he had jumped to the WWF earlier in his career, but he decided to stay. Did it really hurt his career? Some may say yes, but in the history of wrestling, he is still one of the top ten ever and in the history of WCW, Sting is probably one of the top two, battling for that number one spot with Ric Flair. Forget all the stars that they pulled over from the WWF at the time. WCW was based on the ability, talent and skill of a few men like Sting.

As I watched Nitro, and even Thunder when SportsNet began playing it, I wanted to see Sting. I waited patiently all show to see when he would come down from the ceiling and crack nWo skulls in the middle of the ring. I loved his anti-Hogan promos and their feud was one of the best, even though Hogan was getting a little old. I marked out for Sting all the time and I went nuts when he joined the Red and Black nWo. At

first I was upset, but then when they put Nash, Sting, Luger and Macho together in one group (yes, I know Konnan was in there, but I like to forget he even exists) and I loved it. I had become sick of the usual nWo and the alternative was cool.

It's funny how the fans blame the WWE writers for what we see on television today, and they compare it to Nitro. I don't see that comparison at all. The shows are totally different. The WWE is a scripted

entertainment show and Nitro was more of a free-for-all with wrestlers giving more 'shoot' interviews than any federation should ever allow. They didn't have that much direction, but they did a damn good job from my point of view. As the WWF was fighting to gain fan support back with gimmicks and storylines, WCW stuck to wrestling and real feuds.

To go back to a certain point, have you ever seen a feud as well planned and executed as the Booker T vs. Chris Benoit Best of Seven Series? The two had a total of about twelve matches in their feud and they had wrestling fans tuning in every week to see who was the better wrestler. There was no gimmick involved. There was no storyline where Booker stole Benoit's girlfriend. All their was was two men who wanted to prove to the fans that they deserved the spotlight, and they took it within the first few matches. Luckily, while I was taping the WCW matches for my friend, I ended up with at least three of the Booker/Benoit matches.

When Owen Hart died, the WWF did a good job at making the entire night centre around Owen, but it was the WCW who really put their all into a tribute to his life and career. The WWF honoured him through entertainment, but WCW honoured Owen, a man who never worked for them, with a wrestling match. For those of you who never saw this match, you need to get your hands on it. Actually if anyone out there has the entire match on tape, I would love to get a copy of it. The match I am speaking of was Chris Benoit vs. Bret Hart. The match went on for what felt like an eternity, and no one complained. It was the purest match ever shown on professional wrestling television, and no one complained that the match was fake, scripted or pre-determined. All they could say about it was one word... AMAZING! WWF has always been great with gimmicks, but so was WCW. Raven's Flock, although a regeneration of his ECW days, made people forget about the heavyweights for a while. The nWo was probably the biggest thing in wrestling history and they had the original Ministry of Darkness (Kevin Sullivan and his crew as Taskmaster), the original People's Champion (Diamond Dallas Page), the first African American champion (Ron 'Don't call me Faarooq' Simmons),

and so many others. They had the first Hell in a Cell (War Games), the first Royal Rumble (World War) and TLC Matches are nothing compared to the old Scaffold matches between the Rock and Roll Express, Midnight Express and the Road Warriors. And did you guys think the Vegas Gimmick Wheel was a new concept by Eric Bischoff? Go back in time to about 1993 and you will find 'The Wheel of Death' match between then champion Vader and his hardcore challenger Cactus Jack.

If WCW was still around today, and I was forced to choose one or the other, I would probably pick WCW. With WCW, you didn't always see the same matches every week. Sure, Hogan cut a 45 minute promo every week, Ric Flair never shut up and Chris Jericho would berate his opponents backed up by Ralpus, but when it comes down to wrestling, WCW wins hands down. When it comes down to new and inventive storylines, WCW was usually on top. When it came to giving more people the chance to shine in not only their own matches, but also a chance to climb the ladder to the top, WCW gave so many people that chance. Booker T, Jericho, Steiner, Sting, Chris Benoit, Raven, Jeff Jarrett, DDP, Kidman, Lance Storm and many others got the push in WCW that made them what they are today in the WWE, or in history as we remember it.

Everyone's preferences are different. Everyone's preferences change. I began watching wrestling in the early 1980's and was a WWF fan. A few years later I began finding NWA and WCW on late night and Saturday afternoon television. I stopped watching wrestling for a year

or so, then I came back to it in the late 90's. It was up to the WWF and WCW to prove themselves to me once again. I may have been only one fan, but at that time it was a daily battle for the two feds to get and keep their own core fans. They both went all out and I was glad that I was one of those fans they were fighting for. Although I started with the WWF, I watched it all. I love the WWF, WWE or whatever they will be called in ten years, but I am also a fan of things that were new and different. The ECW blew me away and the WCW made me appreciate wrestling the way it used to be before 'Attitude'. I collect the old tapes. I watch their matches and I 'remember when...' more times about WCW than I can even remember. I love to look back and see people before they got their big break and I love to look back at what was a federation that was a little ahead of its time, and sometimes only one step behind the WWF.

I want to see Sting come back down from the rafters... I want to see Raven in the front row claiming Raven's Rules... I want to see Chris Jericho accompanied by Ralpus, Chris Benoit rip through every division they threw at him, The Steiners and Harlem Heat tear up the tag team ranks, Ric Flair wearing the gold, War Games, three-ring 90 man battle royals, scaffold matches, bunkhouse brawls, Hog Wild, Bash at the Beach, Halloween Havoc and everything else that made WCW just that... World Championship Wrestling.

And just in case you haven't noticed by now... I AM A TRUE BLUE WCW FAN!!! But that's just my twisted point of view...



Scott Steiner finally collapses under the weight of both his 'Freaks 'n Peaks'

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SIT DOWN AND LISTEN...

Music Reviews by Mat Thompson



Tom Petty - The Last DJ

Anyone out there surprised that I'm reviewing this album? Hmm... 'there goes the last DJ, who played what he wanted to play and said what he wanted to say...' For some strange reason I feel a connection to this song. Weird!

The Last DJ is actually Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' latest album that has a lot to say to a lot of people out there. Just the first two tracks really sum up the problems Tom Petty sees in the music industry. Read his interview with *Rolling Stone* and you will really see what I mean.

The Last DJ tells a tale like only Petty can. The song is a simple one telling the story of a DJ who refuses to bend to corporate demands, refusing to play the tracks that the record companies say are good. The DJ fights for his freedom, but in the end loses as most DJs do to the money-hungry management who claims to know what the people want to hear.

Track two tells the story of Johnny, a singer who was a small town boy who sang music that really grabbed his fans and told them a story. The song, titled *Money Becomes King*, follows the corporate rape of the artist as ticket prices raise, his songs are used to sell products no one really wants and he becomes a corporate sell-out singing Light Beer jingles and playing for suits instead of his true fans. This song is probably one of the best written songs I have heard in a long time. The song has a magic to it that really grabs your attention.

The rest of the album is pure Tom Petty, giving you his thoughts and views on different issues, but really centering on all the different aspects of music and the music industry. *Dreamville* will really grab you as classic Petty and the track *Joe* is a great blues style rock track carving the heads of the music industry. The lyrics to *Joe* makes me wonder how he actually got this album released.

The CD also includes a bonus DVD which is worth the money all on it's own. The DVD features an interview with Petty which is shown in segments between studio performances of almost all the tracks on this album. The live performances are great and Petty has a lot to say about not only his songs, but music in general. The DVD is a must have for real music lovers.

Of all the CDs I reviewed in this paper, I have to say this is the one album that people need to sit down and really listen to. *The Last DJ* is probably the closest thing to a perfect album I have come across in a long time! You have to hear this album to understand how good it really is. Go get it...



Headstones - The Oracle of Hi-Fi

How could a new Headstones album come out without me knowing? Usually I know months before my favorite band comes out with a new album, but this time it slipped my attention. At first I was pissed, but then I heard the album and all I can say is Holy Shit!

The Oracle of Hi-Fi is probably the best album the Headstones have released since their debut album *Picture of Health*. Many Headstones fans out there are gasping at the fact that I could even say an album is even in the league of the album that brought us *Tweeter*, *Three Angels* and *Cemetery*, but you have to hear this album to completely understand.

Lead singer Hugh Dillon has a voice that defines the Headstones' style. They are still underground, old-school punk, but they have added a more mainstream rock sound that has somewhat regenerated and re-presented the band to the fans. To me these guys are the epitome of what Canadian music is all about. They have a great fan following, their shows are smaller, but packed, and their sound is pure.

The first single from *The Oracle of Hi-Fi* titled *Reframed* is a great Headstones track that will once again grab the attention of the listener wanting to hear more. Other tracks like *Whatchagonnado*, *Coffee Cup* and *Take It* will keep you listening, but there are a few tracks that will make you glad you bought the album.

Tiny Teddy is probably one of the best punk/rock tracks on the album, with the appeal and grab that they first had with *Tweeter and the Monkey Man*. While *Tiny Teddy* rocks that inner Canadian Rock fan in all of us, the track that really completes the album is *Devil's Road*. The track is a slower acoustic track with only Hugh Dillon and a guitar. The song has the feel of a great live road tale. You can almost picture Dillon on a dark stage in a smokey bar, drinking a beer, smoking a cigarette and singing the song into a well used microphone while only the hardcore drinkers remain in the bar. It's like catching a glimpse into the mind of Dillon outside the harsh, punk exterior we usually see and hear.

I know I'm biased. I admit I'm the biggest Headstones fan and will love anything they record, but this album is a must have! *The Oracle of Hi-Fi* is, as I stated earlier, the best album the have produced since their first. The band gives you everything on this disc. Million dollar sell-out bands have nothing on The Headstones. Check it out and you'll see what I mean.



Shaggy - Lucky Day

The most annoying man in all of music today has once again released an album, hoping to tap into that one age range that didn't buy his last album, but I don't think the 94+ crowd care about an album with tracks titled *Hookie Jookie*, *These Are the Lips* and *Hey Sexy Lady*.

Lucky Day is the follow up to the hugely successful *Hot Shot* that became one of the most hated albums by DJs world wide. This album slows it down a little and seems to be more of an R&B/Reggae recording. The songs are slower, with more of a Jamaican-Barry White feel to them. The first single *Hey Sexy Lady* is the most up tempo track on the album and they get slower and more mellow as they go. *Get My Party On* and *Strength of a Woman* are pretty good tracks, but unless you're relaxing with your significant other, or trying to get your groove on with that hottie from down the hall, the album is more of a sleeper.

A lot of people will probably pick it up hoping to get an album like *Hot Shot*, but *Lucky Day* really switches things up and is a much less interesting album. This isn't an album for everyone.



Crazytown - Darkhorse

Oh my God! This CD has to be the most torturously bad CD I have listened to in a long time. I don't even know why their damn *Butterfly* song was so popular, but this album is like pure shit pressed into CD format!

The entire album sounds like different versions of *Butterfly*, just sped up, slowed down, rocked out or just the exact same song with even worse lyrics. I tried to like the album. I was happy when I received it, but now I'm ready to send the CD back to Sony with a letter asking them if they have actually listened to it, and if they have, why they would send this type of torture out to the public.

Have you ever had the pleasure of listening to a cat in heat being run over very slowly by a steam roller? Well, it is one of the most horrendous sounds I can imagine, but I would rather listen to that every night between the hours of 3 and 6am for a month then have to listen to this crap again!

So to sum up.... DAMN THIS ALBUM SUCKS!!!



Foo Fighters - One by One

A lot of people have turned on Foo Fighters saying they're just riding on the fame that came from Dave Grohl's stint in *Nirvana*, but for real fans, this album is a great return to the forefront for the band.

The album has a harder edge to it, slowly pulling the band away from the alternative stigma they were stuck with from the beginning. The first track *All My Life* has really done well on the airwaves, standing out from the new *Nirvana*, *Pearl Jam* and *Rage Against the Garden* tracks that are trying to bring back the grunge era once again. The whole album really grabs you, showing Foo Fighters as a band that will be around for a long time.

Tracks like *Times Like These*, *Overdrive*, *Tired of You* and others will make you pull out your old Foo Fighters albums and listen to the emergence of the band as a great late 90's/new millennium band.

Certain CDs also come with an bonus DVD featuring three videos and behind the scenes photos and making of footage for the new album. One of the videos is just one of their older songs being played while you stare at a really weird picture of the band, but it's still funny.

For the price, this CD is a great buy. You get 11 amazing tracks by Foo Fighters, a bonus DVD and a lot of them come with a free movie ticket coupon in them as well. Not bad for spending 16 bucks. If you want something a little harder, but still centered on real rock, check out *One By One*. You won't be disappointed!



Tim McGraw & The Dancehall Doctors

The other day I was watching television and on one of the stations was a Tim McGraw concert. Since there was nothing else on, I decided to watch it. The concert was so good that I went out and bought this album right after it ended.

Tim McGraw & The Dancehall Doctors is the latest album by the man who is not only one of the best country singers around, but also the hero of every straight man in the world (see *Faith Hill*...). The album is packed with 15 tracks which range from pure country, to rock, to a great cover that you would never expect a country singer to perform.

One of the main draws of this album is a good number of slower songs with great stories behind them. Unlike most music today, country music has more of a story behind it and the writing is something that will draw you to the songs. Tracks like *Red Ragtop* and *That's Why God Made Mexico* really hit home while *She's My Kind of Rain* slows it down, giving you a love song that comes straight from the heart.

The one song that really stood out for me is Tim's cover of Elton John's *Tiny Dancer*. He really hits it right on the nail with this song by only adding a small amount of country sound, keeping the classic 70's sound intact. Even non-country fans will like this track. The album crosses musical borders creating a very easy album to listen to.

Tim McGraw & The Dance Hall Doctors is available now and a must for country fans. I highly recommend this album, even if only for *Tiny Dancer* and *Mexico*.

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The Modern Day Horror Movie

Hugh Panelas
A&E Editor

Times have changed and so have movies. The 1980's style of slasher flicks is gone and true horror fans are left only to be disappointed when leaving movie theatres everywhere shaking their heads.

The first main change to the genre is that the whole idea of a series is gone. You'll never find a reoccurring story with a character that resurfaces every few years taking on a whole new clique of teens. I guess the argument that could be made against this is that people won't be subjected to another Jason X. I still hold true to the point that that movie wouldn't be as bad if they got rid of all of the one-liners in it. Luckily fans were treated to a great resurrection (excuse the pun) when the new Halloween movie hit theatres. This movie remained true to the original series and did so by having the same producer. There

have been some great thrillers that have hit the scene but there have also been some duds.

The 6th Sense

This movie seemed to have it all. It has some big name actors, a new young face, a new writer and director that was willing to take a new direction. Here's the problem. If you were lucky enough not to find out that Bruce Willis' character was dead before seeing the movie then it was a good movie. People did nothing but talk about the twist so unless you saw it opening weekend I guarantee that you lost something when viewing this.

Another problem was tempo and length. This movie was painstakingly slow and long. What made it worse was the fact that the movie pushed the 2-hour mark and it didn't have nearly enough tense moments to make it interesting from

start to finish.

Fear.com

I was very disappointed with this movie. The premise of this movie was fantastic. Log on to this website and you die if you can't solve the puzzle. The problem was that the advertising campaign did a great job of suckering horror fans into the theatre only to watch a very boring movie that had nothing to do with anything more than revenge.

This movie was nothing more than a really bad X-Files episode that even Mags would have been disappointed with. Again this movie held lots of promise. It had its moments but in the end the old story of a ghost that needs help exposing her murderer is well overdone.

Length was another issue here. Once again I thought that I was going to fall asleep. Maybe because it had Batman syndrome. The movie

is made with almost no lighting. It was dark for most of the time and when the director decided to add some light it made your eyes scream in pain. I actually had a headache at the end of this pointless journey because of the extremes.

The Ring

At first when I saw the previews for this movie I thought to myself that it was a redone version of Fear.com. The Ring features unmarked videotape that after you watch it you die 7 days later. To me it sounded like a yawner and what didn't help was after seeing 3 different trailers I was convinced that I knew the story of the movie. After some convincing I decided to hit the theatres to check out what people were calling the "scariest movie since the Exorcist".

I must admit that I did actually jump a little. Not because of

anything that scared me but the director of this movie had a little bit of old school cinema. A slow, quiet scene interrupted by a gruesome image along with loud, ear piercing sounds. I was correct in my assumptions and as the movie began to unwind I was really beginning to get disappointed. Then there was a complete change in direction.

The last 15 minutes of this movie is what takes it and places it in the front group of horror/thrillers since the classics of the 1980's. It was this little time that made The Ring a favorite of mine. I don't want to ruin it for you but I will tell you that I haven't got a shiver like I did since watching The Blair Witch Project. It was damn good and you'd better see it.

The Blair Witch Project

Ok, many people hated this movie and many people couldn't watch it because they were running for the bathroom. The key to enjoying this movie is to let yourself completely go. You can't approach it like you would any traditional film. You have to make yourself believe in the characters and in the events that they are experiencing. I hated coming out of the theatre and hearing mindless idiots commenting on how it sucked, or that they didn't get it. Maybe if they weren't busy talking through the whole movie they would have grasped the concept. I actually moved 3 times to different spots the first time I saw it.

Think about what this movie did. It cost almost nothing to make. By nothing I mean by Hollywood standards. It made millions and started a whole "Is the Blair Witch real?" campaign. The sequel was interesting but it caved to mainstream standards. Hopefully the prequel won't be such a push over.

Ghost Ship

While I haven't seen this movie yet I am very skeptical once again. Think about it a few salvage people find a ghost ship out in the middle of the ocean and decide to investigate it and search for some riches. Of course the ship is haunted and all hell brakes loose. It has been done before a million times. Think of Deep Rising, Sphere, Event Horizon, Dead Calm (ok it's not a horror but there is a bad guy that kills everyone). I am a little worried but then again I will watch it. We'll just see what happens.

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